

**RTV 4929C**  
**(Spring 2015)**

**ADVANCED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP: DIRECTING DRAMA**

**Instructor:** James Babanikos, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9:35-11:30; Wednesdays 12:50-2:45;  
Thursdays 12:50-2:45; and by appointment

**Description of Course**

This course is designed to teach the student the process of how to direct a dramatic video program, using single-camera, film-style technique. The course is very comprehensive. We will learn how to recognize and improve a short, dramatic script; how to translate a script into a shooting script; how to schedule a shoot; how to audition, rehearse and get the best performances from actors; how to set up a shot; how to edit; how to work with a composer; and so on.

The approach we will use is very similar to preparing and producing a typical, feature-length film, and students will get first-hand knowledge of what awaits them if they decide to pursue a career in dramatic film/video production.

The course will be comprised of lectures, screenings, analyses, reading scripts, and viewing rushes and rough cuts.

**Grading**

“Making Movies” book report	10%
Two-three minute dialogue scene	20%
Three-four minute chase film	20%
Final project: 7 - 12 minute fictional program	50%*

\* 20 % of this will be the student’s participation on the final project, evaluated by their teammates.

**Please Note:**

- one point will be subtracted from your final grade for each unexcused absence.
  
- 10% will be subtracted from the project you’re working on if you don’t return the equipment on time; you may also lose borrowing privileges.
  
- 10% will be subtracted from your project for every day that an assignment is late.

- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **Text**

**Required Text:** Lumet, Sidney's *Making Movies* (1999)

**Recommended Texts:** Jane Barnwell's *The Fundamentals of Filmmaking* (2008)  
Robert Del Valle's *The One-Hour Drama Series: Producing Episodic Television* (2008)  
Edward Dmytryk's *On Screen Directing* (1984)  
John Douglass and Glenn Harnden's *The Art of Technique: An Aesthetic Approach to Film and Video Production* (1996)  
Robert Edgar Hunt's *Directing Fiction* (2010)  
Nicholas Proferes' *Film Directing Fundamentals: See Your Film Before Shooting* (2008)  
Michael Rabiger's *Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics* (2003)

## **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

## **University Policy on Academic Misconduct**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

## **On-Line Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

## **Prerequisites**

RTV 3101 and RTV3320

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

### **Week 1 – 1/12/14**

- intro to class
- a very general discussion of the process involved in making a dramatic video/film.
- The role of the director.
- the various crew positions at work in a dramatic film, and what their responsibilities are.
  - *Assignment: book review of “Making Movies” assigned; due in three weeks, 1/27/14*

### **Week 2 – 1/19/14**

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – N o c l a s s

### **Week 3 – 1/26/14**

- a review of video/film terminology, and how that affects the emotional, intellectual and psychological response to a single shot and an edited sequence.
- How to cover a two-person scene.
- break up into pairs for first two projects.
  - *Assignment: shoot and edit 2-minute dialogue scene; due in two weeks, 2/9/14*

### **Week 4 – 2/2/14**

- Writing the short script.
- Editing techniques: some guidelines for effective editing.
  - *Assignment: For next week, break up into groups of four for the final project and have a synopsis or outline or script ready to discuss.*

### **Week 5 – 2/9/14**

- Dialogue exercises are screened
- Break up into groups of four for final project and pitch the project to the class.
- Go over chase film assignment.
  - *Assignment: chase film, due in two weeks, 2/23/14*
  - *Assignment: final film script due in 10 days, Thursday, 2/19/14*

#### **Week 6 – 2/16/14**

- Pre-production: location scouting, planning, auditions, and especially breaking down the script into a shooting script.
- go over a screening and analysis of Coming Home.

#### **Week 7 – 2/23/14**

- Chase films due – view in class.
- Individual meetings with each group to go over final script.
  - *Assignment: Break down script into shooting script, due in two weeks, 3/10/14*

#### **Week 8 – 3/2/14**

- Spring Break – No Class

#### **Week 9 – 3/9/14**

- Working with actors, and getting the best performances from them.
  - **Auditions will be held this week... Thursday, 3/14/14, from 4:00 – 9:00 pm!**

#### **Week 10 – 3/16/14**

- Shooting the film – what goes on in the production stage.
- Individual meetings with groups to go over shooting script.

**Week 11 – 3/23/14**

- No formal class. Students will be shooting their final films.

**Week 12 – 3/30/14**

- Post-production: continuity editing, split edits, sound mixing, the use of music, etc.

**Week 13 – 4/6/14**

- Individual group meetings to go over rough cut of final film.

**Week 14 – 4/13/14**

- Individual group meetings to go over locked picture cut.

**Weeks 15 – 4/20/14**

- Screening of final films.